<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:


1.    (original)   A video signal encoder comprising:

-      means for receiving (101) an uncompressed video signal;

-      means for generating feature point data (105) in response to the uncompressed signal;

-      means for compressing (103) the uncompressed video signal in accordance with a compression algorithm to generate a compressed video signal; and

-      means for generating an output video signal (107) comprising the compressed video signal and the feature point data.


2.    (original)   A video signal encoder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the feature point data comprises feature point movement data.


3.    (original)   A video signal encoder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the feature point data comprises parametric data relating to a motion model for one or more feature points.


4.    (original)   A video signal encoder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the feature point data comprises group information related

to a grouping of feature points associated with at least one frame of the uncompressed signal.

5.   (original)   A video signal encoder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the feature point data comprises common movement data for a group of feature points associated with at least one frame of the uncompressed signal.

6.   (original)   A video signal encoder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the feature point data does not comprise feature point absolute position data.

7.   (original)   A video signal encoder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for generating feature point data (105) is operable to detect at least one feature point in a first frame of the uncompressed video signal and to track the at least one feature point in at least a second frame of the uncompressed video signal.

8.   (original)   A video signal encoder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for generating feature point data (105) is operable to group feature points and to generate common feature point data for each group of feature points.

9. (original) A video signal encoder as claimed in claim 1 further comprising decoding means for decompressing the compressed video signal in accordance with a decompressing algorithm to generate a decompressed signal and wherein the means for generating feature point data is further operable to generate the feature points data in response to the decompressed signal.

10. (original) A video signal encoder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for generating feature point data (105) is operable to generate feature point data relating to only a subset of frames of the uncompressed video signal.

11. (original) A video signal processor comprising:
- means for receiving a video signal (201) comprising a compressed video signal and feature point data associated with an uncompressed version of the compressed video signal;
- means for extracting (203) the feature point data; and
- means for processing (207) the compressed video signal in response to the feature point data.

12. (original) A video signal processor as claimed in claim 11 wherein the means for processing (207) is operable to perform image

object tracking in frames of the compressed video signal in response to the feature point data.

13.  (original)  A video signal processor as claimed in claim 11 wherein the means for processing (207) is operable to perform three-dimensional information processing of the compressed video signal in response to the feature point data.

14.  (original)  A video signal distribution system comprising:

    - a video encoder (100) comprising:

-    means for receiving (101) an uncompressed video signal,

-    means for generating feature point data (105) in response to the uncompressed signal,

-    means for compressing (103) the uncompressed video signal in accordance with a compression algorithm to generate a compressed video signal, and

-    means for generating an output video signal (107) comprising the compressed video signal and the feature point data; and

    - a video signal processor (200) comprising:

-    means for receiving (201) the output video signal,

-    means for extracting (203) the feature point data, and

-    means for processing (207) the compressed video signal in response to the feature point data.

15. (original) A method of encoding a video signal, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving an uncompressed video signal;

- generating feature point data in response to the uncompressed signal;

- compressing the uncompressed video signal in accordance with a compression algorithm to generate a compressed video signal; and

- generating an output video signal comprising the compressed video signal and the feature point data.


16. (original) A method of decoding a video signal, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a video signal comprising a compressed video signal and feature point data associated with an uncompressed version of the compressed video signal;

- extracting the feature point data; and

- processing the compressed video signal in response to the feature point data.


17. (original) A method of distributing a video signal, the method comprising the steps of:

- at a video encoder (100) performing the steps of:

- receiving an uncompressed video signal,

- generating feature point data in response to the uncompressed signal,

- compressing the uncompressed video signal in accordance with a compression algorithm to generate a compressed video signal, and

- generating an output video signal comprising the compressed video signal and the feature point data; and

- at a video signal processor (200) performing the steps of:

- receiving the output video signal,

- extracting the feature point data, and

- processing the compressed video signal in response to the feature point data.

18. (currently amended) A computer program enabling the carrying out of a method according to ~~any of the previous claims 15 to 17~~claim 15.

19. (original) A record carrier comprising a computer program as claimed in claim 18.